

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089712
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/DHP:CENORRIS:HGWIN:IO/EX/IR:KECARROLL/DD

APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES

IO:DRTOUSSAINT

IO/EX:SMENTER (IN SUBSTANCE)

-----210340Z 036536 /72-61

O 210130Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, APER, UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SLOT

REF: USUN 1172 AND PREVIOUS

1. DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN SYG WALDHEIM STILL WAFFLING ON SELECTION JIM GRANT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNICEF. AFTER PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND YOU HAD ALL SPOKEN TO HIM OF GREAT US INTEREST IN SELECTION OF AMERICAN TO SUCCEED LABOUISSSE, WE ARE DISTURBED THAT HE IS STILL SEEKING TO AVOID HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING DECISION BY SUGGESTING, FOR INSTANCE, US PERSUADE SWEDEN TO WITHDRAW MICHANEK CANDIDACY AND CITING SOME UNSPECIFIED HIGH UN POSITION TO WHICH SYG MIGHT THEN NAME MICHANEK. WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD CALL ON WALDHEIM AGAIN AND WILL SEND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCH MEETING SEPTTEL.

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2. RE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR CALL ON YOU APRIL 21, IMPORTANT YOU MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR US INTENDS TO MAINTAIN CANDIDACY. YOU MAY WISH TO QUESTION WHY SWEDEN HAS CHOSEN MOMENT TO CHALLENGE US-HELD POSITION AT SUCH CRUCIAL TIME WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION COMING INTO OFFICE WITH COMMITMENT TO UN SYSTEM AND THUS UNDERCUT US

EFFORTS. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT'S NEW INITIATIVES IN

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE CONGRESS, WHICH SEEMS TO BE RESPONDING FAVORABLY (FOR INSTANCE, INCREASE IN PROPOSED FY 1978 FUNDS FOR UNDP BY 30 PERCENT TO 130 MILLION DOLLARS), IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO LOSE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION AND ALIENATE CONGRESS ON SUBJECT OF UNICEF WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED SUCH FAVOR. LOSS OF POSITION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON ALL UN PROGRAMS, NOT JUST UNICEF, WHICH IS UNIQUELY POPULAR WITH US PUBLIC

AND IS SINGULARLY VISIBLE WITH ITS NEW YORK LOCATION.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE IT UNWISE FOR SWEDES TO SPLIT EXECUTIVE BOARD WITH CONTEST WHICH CAN ONLY CAUSE PROBLEMS AND ILL FEELINGS AS WELL AS PROBLEMS FOR UNICEF WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN SO HAPPILY APOLITICAL. WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE SWEDES' MASSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO SOLICIT BOARD SUPPORT FOR MICHANEK, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE TOLD IN APRIL 1976 THAT US INTENDED TO SEEK THE POSITION AND WOULD FIELD A STRONG CANDIDATE. IT IS THE SWEDES WHO HAVE BROUGHT ON A FIGHT FROM WHICH UNICEF CAN ONLY EMERGE THE LOSER.

4. IF SWEDES BRING UP QUESTION OF PERPETUITY, YOU MAY POINT OUT WE HAVE MADE NO SUCH CLAIM AND BELIEVE IT A FALSE ISSUE. THE KEY ISSUE WITH WHICH SWEDES, ABOVE ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHERS, SHOULD BE SYMPATHETIC IS NEED TO RESTORE US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR UN SYSTEM. BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE REACH INTO US POPULACE, UNICEF IS KEY FACTOR IN THIS EFFORT. SO RETENTION OF THIS POSTFORUS SERVES LONG RUN COMMON INTEREST OF STRONG UN SYSTEM.

5. RE QUESTION POSED PARA 4 REFTTEL FOR DEPT'S ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE OF UNICEF POST VIS-A-VIS OTHERS, ANSWER IS SIMPLE. THERE IS NO OTHER POSITION COMING OPEN ANY TIME IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE US THAN THE UNICEF POST. RE WHAT QUOTE COMPARABLE POST UNQUOTE WALDHEIM MAY HAVE IN MIND FOR MICHANEK, DEPARTMENT HAS NO IDEA. POSSIBLY HE COULD HAVE IN MIND POST OCCUPIED BY VAN LAETHEM AS USG FOR ESA DUE TO OPEN UP JANUARY 1978, OR WINSPEARE POST, D.G. OF UNOG, WHICH MAY OPEN LATER THIS YEAR, BUT THIS ONLY SPECULATION. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE TO GET INVOLVED DIRECTLY WITH SWEDEN IN IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE TRADE OFFS FOR THE SYG TO GIVE TO THEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE089712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CENORRIS:HGWINING:IO/EX/IR:KECARROLL/DD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0249
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770433/aaaabbvd.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f14730a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1172
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2735507
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SLOT
TAGS: AORG, APER, UNICEF
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f14730a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009